

DAVID N. CICILLINE

U.S. CONGRESS ★ RHODE ISLAND ★ FIRST DISTRICT

FY24 Appropriations Community Project Funding Guide

Updated: March 9, 2023



In order to make the federal funding process more responsive to the needs of the American people, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee will accept requests this year from Members of Congress for Community Project Funding to support specific, worthwhile projects in the districts they represent. Applications from state and local government entities, as well as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations may be submitted from individual Congressional offices to the Appropriations Committee to be considered for FY24 funding. Project funding may **not** be considered for for-profit entities.

I have fought for the Community Project Funding initiative in recent years to ensure more federal resources are invested in Rhode Island. I have established a process for collecting applications from eligible entities to submit to the House Appropriations Committee. **Only projects with demonstrated community support and those tied to a federal authorization law will be considered.** Funding is for FY24 only. Federal programs may require a state or local match or cost-share for projects. The match cannot be waived by the Appropriations Committee.

To apply for Community Project Funding, Rhode Island government entities and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, can visit my Community Project Funding webpage at <https://cicilline.house.gov/services/community-funding> and submit their requests by **5:00p.m. on March 17, 2023.**

The following resource guide will provide helpful information on how to request Community Project Funding through the annual federal appropriations process. Included in this document, please find an overview of the Community Project Funding process, detailed guidance regarding appropriation accounts that are eligible for Community Project Funding, answers to frequently asked questions, contact information for my staff, and a brief overview of alternate federal funding sources.

I anticipate that my office will receive far more requests for funding than can be fulfilled. **Members of Congress can only submit fifteen requests in total across all the eligible Community Project Funding Accounts within the annual federal Appropriations legislation.** Further, because the final determination on funding is made by the House Appropriations Committee, members cannot guarantee what will be funded and at what level. However, my team and I are here to help you identify other federal funding opportunities where available, so please reach out to my District Office to discuss your projects should funding not be made available through this year's appropriations process.

Thank you again for your interest in FY24 Community Project Funding process. My team is available to answer any further questions you may have about the information in this guide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David N. Cicilline".

David N. Cicilline

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Staff Contact List

Please submit all **FY24 Community Project Funding Requests** using the forms provided through my office's webpage at <https://cicilline.house.gov/CommunityFunding>.

The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request is 5:00p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023.

For specific questions, please reach out to my staff below:

Christina Rankin, Senior Legislative Assistant

Christina.Rankin@mail.house.gov

(202) 225-4911

Annie Pease, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Annie.Pease@mail.house.gov

(401) 729-5600

Overview of the Community Project Funding Process

The House Appropriations Committee will soon be accepting Community Project Funding requests for FY24.

My team and I are looking forward to recommending important local projects for federal funding this year. However, it is important that you know how this process will work.

First, you should know that my team and I expect to receive far more requests for funding than can be fulfilled. While it's my goal to fund as many projects as possible, **Members of Congress can only submit fifteen requests** to fund Community Projects, and we cannot guarantee what will be funded as the final determination is made by the House Appropriations Committee. The total amount for Community Project Funding in House appropriations bills will not exceed 0.5 percent discretionary spending.

Second, it is important that any request you make satisfies **every requirement** laid out by the House Appropriations Committee. Each request should clearly demonstrate the project's merit, community support, and a federal nexus. You will be required to submit evidence of community support, including (but not limited to):

- Letters of support from elected community leaders;
- Press articles highlighting the need for the specific project;
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards;
- Projects listed on community development plans, state intended use plans, and other publicly available planning documents; or
- Support from local newspaper editorial boards, etc.

Additional requirements are listed below:

- A disclosure statement from myself certifying that 1) neither my immediate family nor I have any financial interest in the proposed project and 2) the project has a federal nexus and is authorized by federal law
- No funds can be used by for-profit recipients
- Several Federal programs eligible for Community Project Funding requests require a State or local match for projects either by statute or according to longstanding policy. The Appropriations Committee will not waive these matching requirements for Community Project Funding requests, so State and local officials must have the ability to meet matching requirements prior to requesting a project. **Note: This does not mean that matching funds must be in-hand prior to requesting a project, but that local officials must have a plan to meet such requirements in order for such a project to be viable.**
- Each project request must be for FY24 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding. However, the performance period of a project funded with amounts provided in FY24 will depend on the appropriations account from which it is funded and may be longer than one year.

In the interest of transparency, all Members are required to post all Community Project Funding requests submitted to the committee on their website. The posting must include the name of the proposed recipient (legal name), the address, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the purpose and justification for the use of taxpayer funds. For examples of my FY23 postings, please visit my website here: <https://cicilline.house.gov/fy2023-community-projects>

Community Project Funding Eligible Accounts

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies will only accept Community Project Funding requests in the following accounts.

Department of Agriculture – Farm Production and Conservation Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service (Conservation Operations)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the nation's natural resources. Examples of specific objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and reducing damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

It is strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work. Requests should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY24, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are State, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts. **Non-profit recipients will not be considered.**

House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY23.

Projects should be able to demonstrate a Federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

Department of Agriculture – Research, Education, and Economics

Agricultural Research Service (Buildings and Facilities)

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Facility requests must be for ARS-owned or operated facilities. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

It is strongly encouraged that CPF requests include details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research.

Requests for ARS-owned facilities will be given priority for funding.

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/about-ars/>.

Projects should be able to demonstrate a Federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized in 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

Rural Housing Service (Community Facilities Grants)

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety.

Any project **must** serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents).

The request must demonstrate community support. Applicants should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project as possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

For FY23, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.3 million.

Projects should be able to demonstrate a Federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

Rural Utilities Service (ReConnect Program)

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grant funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90 percent of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

Additionally, when submitting a request, applicants are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25 percent of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

For FY23, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

Projects should have a Federal nexus as it is for the same purposes authorized in the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants)

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program requires a 15 percent match that cannot come from another Federal source. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

Projects should be able to demonstrate a Federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)(2).

Rural Utilities Service (Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grants)

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. The account has not been subject to CPFs in the previous years. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25 percent non-federal cost share.

Projects should be able to demonstrate a Federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee

Department of Commerce

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Scientific and Technical Research

These projects support standards-related research and technology development. Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code

This account does **not fund** building construction or renovation.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Zone Management

These projects support the protection, restoration, and responsible development of our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.

Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA's mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.). Projects are subject to any applicable cost-share required by law under the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Department of Justice

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Byrne JAG Grants assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to enforce laws, prevent and address crime, increase prosecutions, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities.

Projects funded under this category must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

Below are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding Byrne-JAG:

- <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

The median award for FY22 was \$500,000.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - Technology and Equipment

COPS Technology and Equipment community project will support State, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to develop and procure the technology and equipment needed to respond more quickly and effectively, improve officer safety, increase transparency and enhance community relations.

Funding must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)). Projects will be considered that develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology, to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use.

Only state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply.

The median award in this account for FY22 was \$520,000.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Safety, Security, and Mission Services

Funding must be for activities advancing the purposes described in section 20102 of title 51, United States Code. Projects should focus on science, education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects and medical research projects will **not** be considered for Community Project Funding.

The median award in this account for FY22 was \$900,000.

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies will only accept requests for authorized projects under the following programs.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)

- Investigations
- Construction
- Mississippi River and Tributaries
- Operation and Maintenance

U.S. Department of Interior/Bureau of Reclamation

- Water and Related Resources

A very limited number, if any, of new start projects will be considered by the Subcommittee for funding under the Army Corps of Engineers. If a project is an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, the statutory citation should be noted.

Bureau of Reclamation projects that are authorized **only** under sections 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322) will **not** be accepted.

All requests for the Corps of Engineers and the Reclamation accounts listed above should reflect a funding amount that can be realistically utilized in FY24. This is referred to as the project’s “capability,” and it is the maximum amount of funding that the Subcommittee will consider.

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Department of Homeland Security- Federal Emergency Management Agency

Two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs within the Subcommittee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction are open to CPF requests: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grants. Please review the purpose and eligibility requirements, including any [environmental and historic preservation requirements](#), for these two grant programs.

The PDM and EOC grant programs have cost-share requirements. Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must generally be derived from non-federal sources. The non-federal cost-share contribution is calculated based on the total cost of the proposed activity. For example, if the total cost is \$100,000 and the non-federal cost-share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is \$25,000. For PDM grants, small, impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90 percent federal cost-share for their mitigation planning and project sub-applications in accordance with the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5133(a),(h)(2)).

For any projects designated for funding in the final FY24 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State Administrative Agency (SAA) must submit an application to FEMA, and that agency will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, **all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate SSA affirming that it believes the project is eligible.**

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program

EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. According to the National Fire Protection Association, an EOC is defined as a “facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency.”

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the EOC Grant Program, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable, will be considered for funding.

CPF funding in the FY23 House bill ranged between \$158,176 and \$3,000,000 for individual EOC grants.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants

FEMA's PDM grants assist State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long-term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters.

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) will be considered for funding, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable.

CPF funding in the FY23 House bill ranged between \$320,482 and \$10,000,000 for individual PDM grants.

Interior and Environment Subcommittee

The Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will only accept Community Project Funding requests in the following accounts.

Environmental Protection Agency

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

STAG projects support certain clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Similar to past practice, the Committee will be limiting STAG infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs. **Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program.** The Committee will look favorably upon requests for projects that are listed on a state's most recent Intended Use Plan.

There is a **minimum 20 percent cost share requirement** for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant. For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20 percent cost share. **Ability to fund the 20 percent cost share is required before EPA can award a STAG grant.** Please note that assistance provided by a SRF may count towards the project's matching requirement.

In FY23, most EPA STAG infrastructure projects funded in the House bill ranged from \$45,000 - \$5,000,000. Note that the Committee may consider higher project amounts for FY24, and any caps will be determined by the Chairman after reviewing the full universe of requests.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. The Committee will only fund projects with purposes authorized by Federal law:

- Clean water/wastewater projects: Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.
- Drinking water projects: Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j12.

Examples of projects that are generally eligible for STAG funding can be found [here](#), and examples of projects that are generally **not eligible** can be found [here](#).

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

Department of Defense - Military Construction Accounts

Each project request must be for FY24 funds only and cannot include a request for multiyear funding. In addition, requested projects must meet the following criteria:

- Be included on an unfunded requirements/unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY24-FY28 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).
 - Projects suggested by an installation or unit commander will not be accepted.
- Have at least 35 percent of its design completed.
 - For projects that have not reached 35 percent design, planning and design funding can be requested.
- Able to be obligated in FY24.
- Submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) for inclusion in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized.
- Have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects. The Armed Services' Congressional Liaison Offices can help provide these documents.

Eligible Community Project Funding requests are those that are submitted to Congress by DoD, the Services, and Combatant Commanders.

Sources include:

- Unfunded Requirements/Unfunded Priorities Lists (UFR/UPL) – UFRs/UPLs are lists that the Services and Combatant Commanders provide to Congress identifying priority projects that were not included in the President's budget request.
- Future Year Defense Program (FYDP) – The FYDP is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs needed to support DoD operations over a five-year period. The FYDP is released simultaneously with the President's budget request. The FY24-28 FYDP listing the military construction projects that may be eligible for Community Project Funding in FY24 can be obtained through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) website: <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Budget-Materials/>.

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction– Active Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for active components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000. The Committee will only accept CPF requests for active components in the following accounts:

- Army
- Navy and Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Space Force
- Defense-Wide Agencies (SOCOM, DLA, etc.)

The average award for Military Construction projects in FY22 was \$18 million.

Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction– Reserve Components

Eligible Community Project Funding requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for Reserve Components in the accounts listed below. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000. **Note: Some Reserve Component projects require a State funding match.** Applicants must determine whether the proposed project requires such a match and if so, demonstrate that the project has current State matching funds. The Committee will not waive match requirements. The Committee will only accept CPF requests for reserve components in the following accounts:

- Army National Guard
- Air National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Air Force Reserve
- Navy Reserve

The average award for Military Construction projects in FY22 was \$18 million.

Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Subcommittee

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) will only allow Community Project Funding requests for five accounts within the Department of Transportation and one account within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as follows:

- 1) Department of Transportation - Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- 2) Department of Transportation - Highway Infrastructure Projects
- 3) Department of Transportation - Transit Infrastructure Projects
- 4) Department of Transportation – Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Projects
- 5) Department of Transportation – Port Infrastructure Development Program
- 6) Department of Housing and Urban Development - Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Projects

Department of Transportation

Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

AIP Community Project Funding requests may be used to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and environmental concerns.

All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq., and FAA policy and guidance.
- Included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

The average award in this account for FY22 was \$4 million.

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements. Specific cost share requirements should be understood by the grantee, and verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding.

Highway Infrastructure Projects

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under Chapters 1 and 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- Capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a capital project.
- Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Administered by public entities or Tribal entities.

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code.

Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-Federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The [cost-share requirements](#) are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The average award in this account for FY22 was \$2.7 million.

Transit Infrastructure Projects

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible capital projects are described under Section 5302(4) of title 49, United States Code.

All projects must be:

- Transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project.
- Supported by the State, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Sponsored by designated recipients, States (including territories and the District of Columbia), local government authorities, and/or Indian tribes.

Public transportation or transit is defined in Section 5302(15) and (22) of title 49, United States Code, as regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation that is open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus service, charter bus service, school bus service, sightseeing service, courtesy shuttle serves for patrons of one or more specific establishments, or intra-terminal or intra-facility shuttle services.

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code. The Subcommittee will continue to treat the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program as programmatic requests and will not fund CIG projects under Transit Infrastructure Projects, consistent with the FY22 and FY23 processes.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The average award in this account for FY22 was \$2.5 million.

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the CRISI program authorized in section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be:

- Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project;
- Supported by the State, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.

This is a new Community Project Funding account for FY24. **The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation.** These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities.

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Port Infrastructure Development Program

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under Section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by title XXXV of division C of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY22.

The Subcommittee will only fund projects that meet eligibility criteria and will be administered by eligible applicants, as described by statute. As a reminder, funding may not be directed to for-profit recipients. Due to the limited amount of total CPF funding, priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals, as described in 46 U.S.C. 54301(b), and to discrete, smaller-scale projects at larger ports and intermodal connections to ports.

This program has a statutory non-Federal matching requirement, with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports. Applicants should review 46 USC sections 54301(a)(8) and 54301(b) for more information on these cost-share requirements before submitting requests for funding. Note that recipients are also required to comply with reviews and audits from the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, these projects may be subject to various Federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

EDI Community Project Funding within the Community Development Fund account of the HUD title is intended for economic and community development activities, consistent with statutory and additional Committee requirements.

Project requests for the FY24 Economic Development Initiative program must be eligible under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5); which are as follows—but limited to—land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation; blight removal; and construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for “buildings used for the general conduct of government.” **Programmatic and operational expenses are not eligible.**

5305(a)(1) – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;

5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

5305(a)(4) – clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings);

5305(a)(5) – special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

Given that projects must meet these authorized purposes of the CDBG program, the Committee expects to fund the following types of projects and other similar projects:

- Water or sewer infrastructure projects, which are not otherwise eligible to be funded as CPFs in EPA STAG (Interior bill) or Rural Water and Waste (Agriculture bill);
- Local road infrastructure, which is not otherwise eligible as a CPF in Highways (in this bill);
- Streetscape improvements;
- Public or non-profit housing rehabilitation, housing development financing, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects, which would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community;
- Projects with a clear economic development benefit, such as workforce training centers and manufacturing incubators;

- Projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with the statutory purposes. For example, food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers.

All projects will be evaluated based on the individual submissions, and projects will be selected based on the merits of the project relative to other projects and the availability of CPF funding.

The following types of projects will **not** be eligible for CPF funding:

- Museums, commemoratives, memorials;
- Swimming pools, water parks, golf courses;
- Healthcare facilities;
- Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters and performing arts venues.

Due to the statutory restriction on using funds for “buildings for the general conduct of government,” things like courthouses and town halls cannot be funded.

EDI projects, like all projects funded by HUD, are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD’s NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all applicable federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and new commitments of non-HUD funds can be used on a project (24 CFR 58.22).

In addition to meeting the above eligibility criteria, all projects must meet these Committee requirements:

- Administered by state, local, or tribal governmental entities or non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.
- As a reminder, for-profit entities are not eligible for Community Project Funding.
 - Applicants are advised that projects for governmental entities to improve private properties pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4) will be highly scrutinized and possibly not funded by Committee.
- Applicants are advised that projects submitted under 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1)(C) will be disfavored if the only or primary purpose of the project is “beautification” or historic preservation, without evidence of other community development or economic development benefits.

EDI projects are not eligible for the reimbursement of expenses for soft costs (planning, administrative) incurred prior to the completion of a grant agreement between HUD and the grantee; a grant agreement and a completed environmental review are necessary for reimbursement of hard costs (construction activities).

Frequently Asked Questions

The process of requesting and submitting requests for Community Project Funding can be confusing. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the process. Please check this section for answers to many of your questions before following up with my staff.

What is Community Project Funding?

Community Project Funding is generally defined as spending provisions in federal legislation that:

- Are requested on behalf of constituents or constituent organizations by a Member of Congress or Senator.
- Provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or specific funding amount to a specific entity for a specific purpose.
- Meets the objective of a federal program under existing law.
- Can demonstrate community support.

Community Project Funding is typically requested for projects with a clear purpose and goal above and beyond normal operating activities, for which private, non-federal funding is not available or sufficient. Community Project Funding will typically only serve as a partial contribution to the total cost of a project.

Is there a deadline for submitting a request?

Yes. The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request for our office is 5:00p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023.

What if I miss a deadline? Are any exceptions made if the bill hasn't been passed?

Congressional offices review numerous requests in a short amount of time. As a result, deadlines are strictly enforced. Once my office submits our requests to the Committee, I am unable to change or add requests. That is why it's important to submit your request by the deadline or earlier.

Are Community Project Funding requests publicly disclosed?

Yes. All requests for Community Project Funding submitted by the Member to the Committee for consideration must be publicly listed on that Member's website and include the name and address of the requestor, the amount requested, and the justification for use of taxpayer funds.

Are there limitations on what Community Project Funding can be used for?

Yes. Federal Programs have very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. It is recommended that you closely examine this guide for references to eligible uses, limitations on use, or requirements for a state or local funding match or cost-share. Generally, funding cannot be used for debt service, recurring or routine expenses, reimbursement of costs, or projects that cannot demonstrate value to the community.

Can I request funding for “bricks and mortar”?

One of the most common requests for funding is for building construction or renovation. Most appropriation accounts specifically prohibit this kind of project given the high demand. However, there are some exceptions to this rule, including the Economic Development Initiative under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and certain projects under the Military Construction Subcommittee.

How much should I request?

It depends on the account from which you are requesting funds. You should not request more funds than you need or that can be realistically spent in the Fiscal Year for which you receive the funds. While you should request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming Fiscal Year that you need, please remember that projects may not be funded fully due to budgetary restraints. Receipt of funds from Community Project Funding in one Fiscal Year is not a guarantee for Community Project Funding in future Fiscal Years. To the extent possible, this guide has included information on average funding levels for the various eligible accounts in FY22 or FY23.

What if I do not know the appropriate Account or Agency for my project request?

This guide has been prepared to outline information on available accounts. Requestors should use this guide to identify the appropriate account to identify one that meets the needs of your project or organization. Please contact my staff if you need additional information.

If my project is funded, will I receive the full amount I request?

There is no guarantee that an approved Community Project Funding request will be funded at the requested level. It is likely that you will only receive a portion of your request, if funded at all. This is mostly due to budgetary restraints. Please keep this in mind when requesting support for your project.

Do I need letters of support?

Yes. Clear and compelling evidence of community support for the project is a requirement of the application process. The more community support for a project, the better. As listed above, letters of support from local, municipal, and state elected officials and stakeholders, as well as editorials and articles in local newspapers on the importance and necessity of the project are all important. Resolutions passed by city councils or boards and projects listed on State intended use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents are also helpful demonstrations of community support. Please submit community support documents in a single PDF.

I submitted a request. Will it be approved? When will I know?

The FY24 Community Project Funding process is extremely targeted, and this process is also very competitive. While my team will look at all requests, it is strongly recommended you explore other grant and funding sources as well.

Many subcommittee deadlines are at the end of March. In order for my team and I to properly examine all requests, my office’s deadline is 5:00p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023.

The House Appropriations bills are typically considered in the early summer, with the Senate considering bills in late summer. The House and Senate convene a “conference committee” to work out the differences in each of those bills.

The Committee requires all members to publicly disclose and post their final requests to the Appropriations Committee once the requests are made.

Please remember, even if your project is supported in the House and/or Senate Appropriations bills, they may not be included in the final funding bill, and the funding level is subject to change until the final bill is signed into law.

This process can be long, but my team and I will be sure to keep all projects apprised of their status.

If my Community Project Funding request is granted, what is the process for getting the assistance and how quickly will I receive it?

In general, recipients of Community Project Funding will be contacted by the appropriate agency or office that oversees the account from which your project received funding. This cannot happen until the appropriations bill in which your project was listed is signed into law. The timing varies between departments and agencies – some may start the process within several weeks, others may take several months after the bill’s enactment into law.

In most cases, you will have to complete and submit a noncompetitive grant application outlining the project’s goals, cost estimates and other requirements. You will work with a program or contract officer to complete these steps. They may have questions or additional requirements that could affect the timing of the obligations or outlay of funding to your organization.

The process of accessing funding, and the time it takes to complete the necessary steps surprises many recipients who expect the money to be provided immediately.

Please be sure to take this into account when submitting a request.

Can I depend on receiving Community Project Funding for the same project more than once?

Generally, no. Most successful requests are one-time infusions of funding, generally used to launch a project or partially contribute towards the total cost of a project.

Other Federal Funding Resources

The Community Project Funding process is highly competitive, and while there are many worthy projects that deserve support, funding limitations prevent many from receiving funding through the Congressional appropriations process. However, it is important to note that Community Project Funding represents only a small fraction of the discretionary funding available through competitive grants, loans, and other opportunities.

Below are several useful resources to explore other federal funding opportunities. Each Congressional office has staff dedicated to assisting organizations with seeking and applying for grants; you are strongly encouraged to contact your Congressional representatives to discuss how you can access any assistance from your federal elected officials.

www.Grants.gov

Looking for other federal funding opportunities? At Grants.gov, organizations can search and apply for competitive grants from 26 different federal agencies. Grants can be searched by agency, type of applicants, intended purposes, and more.

www.SAM.gov

The official U.S. government website for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards.

www.GovLoans.gov

Interested in finding out which loans or benefits you may be eligible for? Here you can learn more about federal loans, determine which loans may be right for you, and more.

www.Benefits.gov

This tool will help you figure out what government benefits you may be eligible for. It also provides information on how to apply for these programs.

www.USA.gov

The official guide to US Government Information and Services.

Feedback

I hope this guide is helpful to you in compiling your Community Project Funding requests. Your feedback is essential to ensuring that this guide and process remain user-friendly. Please share any feedback you have with my staff

Thank you.